

**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

HEARING CHARTER

*An Overview of Science and Technology Research and Development Programs and
Priorities at the Department of Homeland Security*

**Tuesday, March 15, 2011
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
2318 Rayburn House Office Building**

1. Purpose

On Tuesday, March 15, 2011 the Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology will hold a hearing to review activities at the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS S&T) and the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office at the Department of Homeland Security (DNDO). There will be two panels; one panel will include Administration witnesses from DHS S&T and DNDO providing testimony for each agency, and the other panel will include stakeholders of the DHS enterprise.

2. Witnesses

Panel 1

Dr. Tara O'Toole is the Under Secretary for Science and Technology at the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. Warren Stern is the Director of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office at the Department of Homeland Security.

Panel 2

Dr. James Carafano is the Director of the Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies at the Heritage Foundation.

Mr. Marc Pearl is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Homeland Security and Defense Business Council.

Mr. David Maurer is the Director of the Homeland Security and Justice Team at the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

3. Brief Overview

The hearing will examine various elements of DHS S&T including the recent reorganization of the Directorate, the strategic planning process, stakeholder involvement in setting research priorities, and the role of research and development in the DHS S&T portfolio. Many of the areas reflect ongoing interest from Members of the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee.

4. Background

The Department of Homeland Security's research and development portfolio is concentrated in DHS S&T and DNDO. DHS S&T is responsible for carrying out research on behalf of federal homeland security needs and coordinating this research with other federal research entities.

Science and Technology Directorate (DHS S&T) Spending (dollars in millions)

Account	FY10 Enacted	FY11 Request	FY12 Request	FY12 Request versus FY10 Enacted	
				\$	%
Science and Technology Directorate					
<i>Acquisition and Operations Support</i>	86.3	58.6	54.2	(32.1)	(37.2)
<i>Laboratory Facilities¹</i>	150.2	122.0	276.5	126.3	84.1
<i>Research, Development, and Innovation</i>	577.4	645.7	659.9	82.5	14.3
<i>University Programs</i>	49.4	40.0	36.6	(12.8)	(25.9)
<i>Management and Administration</i>	143.2	152.0	149.4	6.2	4.3
Totals:	1006.5	1018.3	1176.4	169.9	16.9

Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) Spending (dollars in millions)

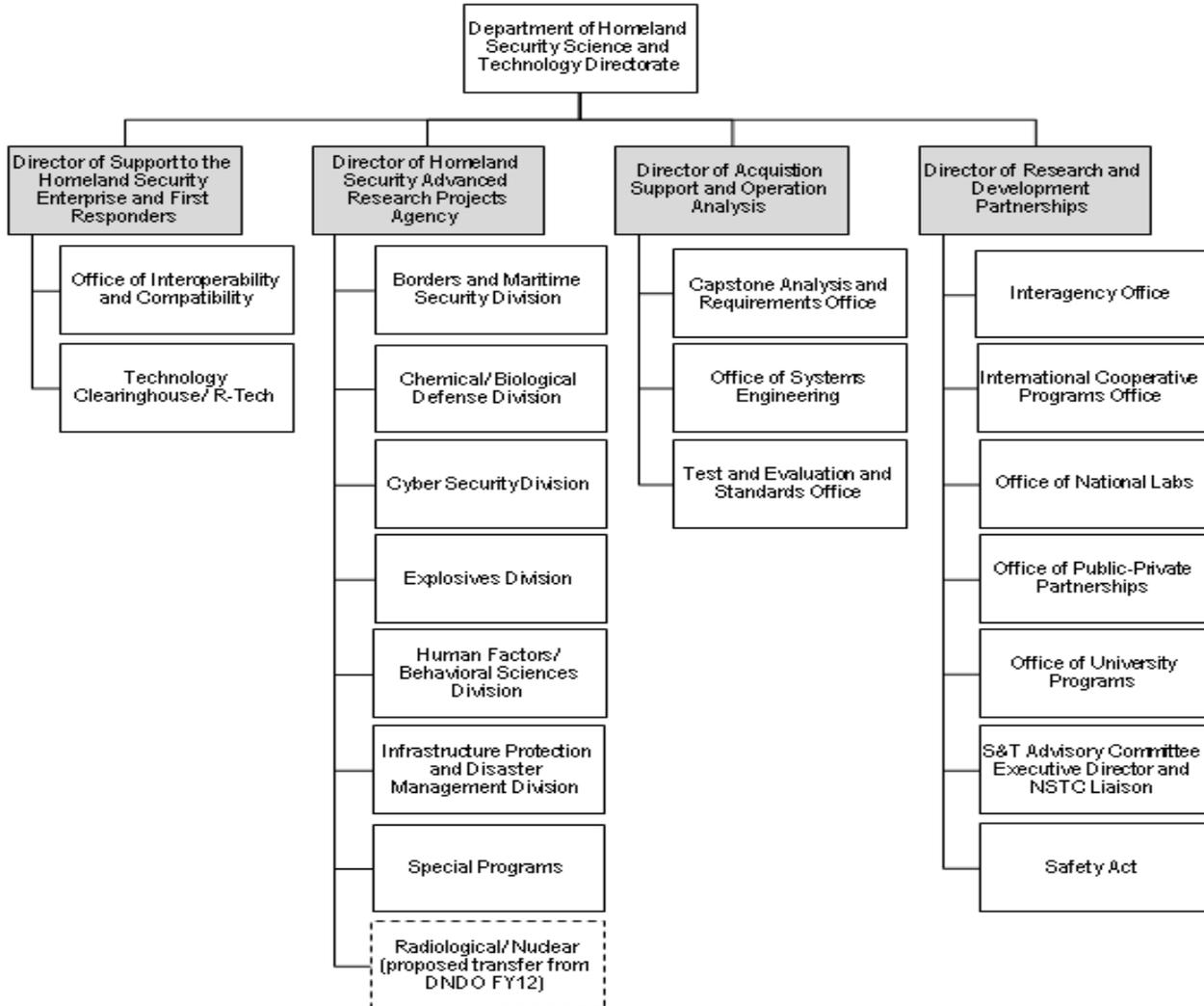
Account	FY10 Enacted	FY11 Request	FY12 Request	FY12 Request versus FY10 Enacted	
				\$	%
Domestic Nuclear Detection Office					
<i>Management and Administration</i>	38.5	37.0	41.1	2.6	6.8
<i>Research, Development, and Operations</i>	324.5	207.8	206.3	(118.2)	(36.4)
<i>Systems Acquisition</i>	20.0	61.0	84.4	64.4	322
Totals:	383.0	305.8	331.7	(51.3)	(13.4)

¹ The FY12 Laboratory Facilities request reflects the initial construction of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), the replacement for the Plum Island Animal Disease Center.

The FY12 budget request for DHS S&T is \$1.2 billion and would increase by \$170 million or 16.9 percent from the FY10 enacted. Most of this increase reflects the transfer of research and development programs from DNDO to DHS S&T, which will consolidate all DHS basic research within DHS S&T. The FY12 budget request for DNDO is \$331.7 million, an overall reduction of \$51.3 million or 13.4 percent. This includes a transfer of \$108.5 million from the Transformational Research and Development account to DHS S&T. This transfer was also proposed in FY11. If the DNDO transfer and funding for the construction of the NBAF is removed, the DHS S&T budget request represents an 11 percent decrease from FY10 enacted.

5. Organization of the Science and Technology Directorate

DHS S&T is currently comprised of four groups that address basic research through advanced technology development and transition. An organizational realignment took place effective in late 2010.



6. Issues and Concerns

Science and Technology Research and Development Prioritization

Witnesses will discuss the methods and criteria used to develop long-term basic research and development priorities at DHS S&T and how these methods and criteria may be improved. Concerns continue to emerge in the current budget environment that in responding to immediate needs, DHS has experienced challenges in pursuing basic research and development that could potentially help aid the development of the innovative long-term capabilities needed to protect the homeland years down the road. In addition, witnesses will assess how research priorities align with the needs of DHS stakeholders, and how the Department coordinates its efforts with other federal research entities.

Reorganization Impacts and Implications

The Subcommittee has requested that witnesses address the impact of the changes that have occurred at DHS S&T following the Quadrennial Review² and the Bottom-Up Review,³ including the 2010 realignment of DHS S&T, and the recent portfolio analysis.

Stakeholder and Private Sector Engagement

DHS S&T has cited an increased emphasis on partnerships to increase the efficiency and timeliness of delivering needed capabilities. Witnesses will address the manner in which DHS S&T and DNDO collaborates throughout the various DHS offices, as well as the relationship and interaction between DHS science and technology programs and the private sector. Also, the Subcommittee has asked witnesses to discuss the manner in which DHS responds to customer and stakeholder needs through collaborative agency partnerships.

Science and Technology Informing DHS Program Decisions

The Subcommittee has requested that witnesses address the DHS research and development information provided in the recent GAO report: “Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars, and Enhance Revenue”.⁴ The GAO has identified concerns regarding the manner in which DHS completes testing and cost-benefit analyses in the acquisition process. One of S&T’s FY12 strategic initiatives is focused on acquisition support. Specifically, DHS S&T has established an Acquisition Support and Operations Analysis group. The Subcommittee has asked witnesses to discuss the current and potential role of science and technology research and development programs at DHS in supporting the technology acquisition programs of the Department and whether a more active role for DHS S&T could assist with reducing costs affiliated with acquisition programs.

² Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate, *Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Report: A Strategic Framework for a Secure Homeland*, February 2010, http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/qhsr_report.pdf.

³ Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate, *Bottom-Up Review Report*, July 2010, http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/bur_bottom_up_review.pdf.

⁴ <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11318sp.pdf>